GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2025

WELCOME

Dan and Phyllis Monson became members November 30, 2023, transferring from St. John Lutheran church near Spicer, MN where they enjoyed a lake home after retiring. They have 3 sons and a daughter.

During their working years Dan had a dental practice in Chamberlain, SD. His chair side assistant all the while was Phyllis. They now keep busy enjoying their 6 grandchildren.

Dan enjoys woodworking, especially turning wood, Phyllis enjoys decorating and flower arranging.

They are a welcome addition to our family here at Christ.



You may have noticed we have been featuring new members in the newsletter. It has been met with positive results in building community. We often gather at church and know very little about each other. This is especially true for new comers. With that in mind we plan to alphabetically feature our members each month in this same way. If you prefer not to be featured you may certainly decline when your turn comes up. Within the church family is where love and encouragement can happen and knowing each other a little better can only enhance our Christian fellowship.

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Calendar ..... *Insert*

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

01 Steven Counts
02 Hannah Preheim
10 Jay Holtz
13 Ila Edwards
14 Marcie Bent
14 Phill Andreasen
16 Lexie Guenther
17 Sonja Fick
19 Zachary Nix
26 Denny Tellinghuisen
Jessie Bent
28 Nicole Doohen

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

13 Brooks & Alia Robison
19 Luther & Carol Brack
25 Thomas & Tamerha Miller
29 Trever & Addie Bartlett
30 Pr. Matthew & Lynda Nix

BAPTISMS

MAY

06 Alia Robison
17 Cherie Zehendner
21 Kandie Nelson
22 Hannah Preheim
23 Duane Ellis
25 Jordan Brack
Amanda Miller
29 Lynda Nix

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

Sacred Music 24/7

lutheranpublicradio.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

May 4 "By the washing of water, John made God's divine intentions clear. Jesus was our brother indeed, on a heavenly mission to rescue and purify us from all sin. Dear Lord, keep us patient as we wait for You. Amen." *Rev. Paul Koelpin, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 11 "As Christians, we know that God's commitment to upholding life started long ago—before photos—before the beginning of time even. From His ordered creation of the world to His ordered creation of you in your mother's womb, God's work has always been life-affirming. Grafted into His family through Baptism, we have become children of God and inheritors of eternal life." *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 18 "Live abundantly, friends, graduates, loved ones, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! Know who you are and to whom you belong." *Deaconess Janet Nicol, Word of Hope – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 25 "We rightly honor our dead who are near to us in time, realizing this is but a passing phase of memory, that in another already-determined Time, all the graves shall be opened, and all shall rise to meet the Judge of the Living and the Dead, whose Kingdom shall have no end. Memory eternal." *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

The WORD *of the* LORD ENDURES FOREVER

*Study the Bible with the Church, **Past and Present***

A daily, verse-by-verse Bible Study hosted by
Pastor Will Weedon
thewordendures.org



FLOWER CHART

The 2025 Flower Chart is pinned to the bulletin board in the Narthex for those who would like to provide altar flowers for a particular Sunday.

If you have any questions about providing flowers, please contact Cheri Zehendner.

STEWARDSHIP

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD - LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – MAY 2025

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

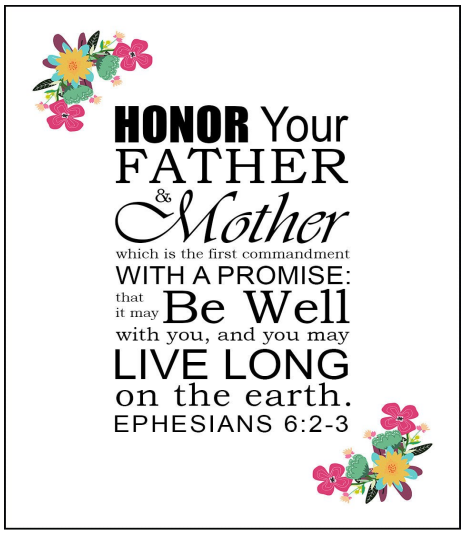
But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

> You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
>
> *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.





CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
April 23rd, 2025

	02/2025	03/2025	04/2025
Deposits:	$ 47,568.69	$ 22,139.18	$ 12,843.12
Disbursements:	$ 14,572.92	$ 22,704.49	$ 15,217.43
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 44,056.69	$ 21,207.18	$ 12,555.23
Designated Funds:	$ 3,512.00	$ 932.00	$ 287.89
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 04/23			$ 40,938.64

May 4, 2025 **10:00am - "The Day we Lost Ella Mae"** - Social responsibility and Christian witness.

10:30 AM - Rev. Chris Nitzel, pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hartley, IA, presents a message titled "The Revealed Jesus". The sermon is based on John 21. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: **www.mainstreetliving.com**

May 11, 2025 **10:00am - "Out of Bondage"** - A Christian approach to alcoholism.

10:30 AM - Rev. Shawn Ethridge, pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fulda, MN, presents a message titled "A Good Shepherd for Us". The sermon is based on John 10:22-30. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: **www.mainstreetliving.com**

May 18, 2025 **10:00am - "Man Adrift"** - A Fisher Family episode that discusses the relationship of faith and works.

10:30 AM - Rev. Richard Milbrandt, pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Ocheyedan, IA, presents a message titled "Come, Lord Jesus, Be Our Guest". The sermon is based on Acts 18:1-18. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: **www.mainstreetliving.com**

May 25, 2025 **10:00am - "Time Out for Bill"** - What is proper when Christians face adversity.

10:30 AM - Rev. Steven Hokana, Assistant Director of Ministry to the Armed Forces in St. Louis, MO, presents a message titled "Faith and the Warrior". The sermon is based on Isaiah 6:7. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: **www.mainstreetliving.com**

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is a "steward"?

A steward is someone who has been put in charge of something. For example, if you are a babysitter, you are a steward for the parents of the child you are watching. We have been entrusted as stewards, or keepers, of God's creation. That means that He has given us everything we have, and out of love for Him, we use all things for His will. This includes giving of our time, talents, money and all that we have in service to Him.

Why do Christians give?

Like everyone else, we belong to God because He created us and sustains us. As Christians we belong to His kingdom of salvation through our Baptism. God's love motivates us to give of what we have. We don't give because we owe God for all He has done for us in Jesus. Instead, we give because of the powerful Gospel that is working within us! Wow! God really strengthens us for wonderful service!

Parents: Before or after the service, discuss stewardship with your children. Remind them why we give. Help them to discover how they might give of what they have. Encourage them to set aside a certain portion of their own money each week to give. They will experience the joy of giving first-hand.

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UPCOMING

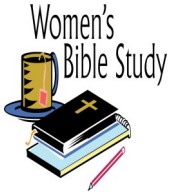
2025

- May 29 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- May 11 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- June 08th Voters Meeting
- July 20-24VBS
- Sept 14 Voters Meeting
- Nov 02 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 3 , 10, 17 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 08, 15, 22 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 14: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- Dec 14 Children's Christmas Service
- December 24 Christmas Eve service, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service



Ascension Day Service

Thursday, May 29th at 7pm. .



Women of Christ

The Women of Christ will take a break until this Fall. Thank you to all that have helped and participated this past year.



Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 11th at 8 am



With High Delight Let Us Unite Lutheran

Service Book 483 | study by Larry A. Peters

Introduction

One of the characteristics of good hymnody is the rich use of imagery. In today's hymn, we have jarring and powerful phrases to describe the most jarring and powerful truth of Christianity: Jesus Christ, the true Son of God in human flesh, died to kill death and rose to bestow eternal life.

Pick out some of the most compelling phrases of this hymn. Guess when this text was written.

- Were you surprised?
- Did you expect such stirring phrases in an old hymn?
- This hymn was translated from the German by a hymn writer known for his own poetic skill. Does this surprise you, or does it seem appropriate?

Exploring the Scriptures

Writing to the Corinthian church, St. Paul insists that the whole faith rests upon the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This is hardly hyperbole. The prophets spoke in promise of the day God would reign over all His enemies. Read over Is. 52:7–10.

- What is the cause of the great joy?
- See how the prophet ties together the comfort of the Lord, His redemption of Jerusalem, how He has laid bare His holy arm and revealed His salvation to all the ends of the earth. How does Jesus' resurrection do all of this?

St. Paul contends that Christ died, was buried, was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and showed Himself to more than 500 witnesses. First Corinthians 15:20–23 insists that our hope is inseparably tied to the fact of Christ's resurrection.

- If Christ is not raised, what is left? (See vv. 17–18.)
- If Christ is raised, what has not changed? (See vv. 22 and 26.)
- In contrast to the way some speak of a friendly or natural death, St. Paul insists death is the final enemy that must be overcome. Has the way many have come to speak of death reduced the importance and the joy of Christ's resurrection and our own joyful resurrection in Him?

Hebrews 2:14–15 insists that Christ became incarnate so that through death He might destroy the power of death. "His death has been death's undoing" (st. 2). This is the Gospel. This is what we proclaim to a world still captive to sin and its death.

- We sing it in the Alleluia and Verse of Divine Service, Setting One (LSB, p. 156): "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." How does this characterize the message we tell the world?
- Is there any joy or consolation that does not come from Christ's death to end death and His life that bestows everlasting life?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

Georg Vetter (1536–99) was a priest of the Unity of Brethren who composed this hymn sometime in the mid-1500s. It first appeared in a hymnal of the Bohemian Brethren in 1566. It was forgotten until Martin Franzmann (1907–76) translated it and it appeared in Worship Supplement 1969. Originally 13 stanzas, we have the first two and the final stanza.

This is an exuberant example of a well-written hymn translated to preserve the vitality and richness of its original text. Even without the missing 10 stanzas, the hymn compels God's people to witness in song the Christ who set us free, subduing all our enemies and bestowing upon us His victory over death and the grave.

- Read through the text as we have it and imagine the missing stanzas. What other themes might you have included in a hymn of praise to the risen and ascended Christ?

- How difficult is the job of the translator to preserve the poetic structure of the text, the rhyme scheme of the hymn and the richness of imagery?

Text

Notice how in stanza 1 the hymn not only says what we should sing, but how: "With high delight." Also in stanza 1, the singers are described as "Ye pure in heart."

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Who are the pure in heart? How are we made pure in heart? Read Ps. 51:10–12. What is the duty of the pure in heart? Read Ps. 51:13.

- Note the economy of words employed by the text. In but a few words, "Is ris'n and sends / To all earth's ends," the hymn encompasses the Great Commission of Matt. 28:18–20 and Mark 16:15. What is the "Good news to save ev'ry nation"?

The second stanza reads like the Creed. We sing of Jesus as "True God." How does the resurrection of Jesus connect to His claims to be God incarnate? The stanza is brimming with words that jump right off the page. Christ "burst" from death, subduing all things, leaving the tattered remains of death behind.

- What does it mean that "His death has been death's undoing"?
- Notice the quotation marks around "And yours shall be / Like victory / O'er death and grave." The hymn makes Jesus' resurrection the prototype of our own. How does this make Easter also about us?
- Read Col. 1:15–20, especially verse 18. Jesus is firstborn of creation and the "firstborn from the dead." Does this change how you see the Easter message?
- "His life for us" is the constant theme of this stanza and of Scripture itself. Is there any hope apart from Christ?

The third stanza exhorts, "Let praises ring; / Give thanks, and bring / To Christ our Lord adoration." This is then our duty as well as our privilege and our delight.

- Look at the location of our hope. "So shall His love / Give us above … ." What does this mean? Is our hope in a better or easier today, or is it in the eternal tomorrow Christ has prepared for us?
- First Corinthians 13:9–10 speaks of what we now know only in part but shall then know fully. How is this echoed in the last lines of this hymn?
- "All joy and full consolation." In Rev. 7:13–17, we see our heavenly consolation and joy. Imagine the scarred and wounded hand of Christ wiping away the tears from our eyes. How does Easter point us to this victory? How does the character of Christian life shape us for this eternal victory?

Making the Connection

It is often said that what the Church fails to preach and to sing, she will forget to believe. The translator of this hymn, Martin Franzmann, made the same point by saying, "Theology must sing." Though Easter is a season of the Church Year, the queen of seasons, it is also the ground and hope of our own resurrection and eternal life. We are constantly reminded that Christ is author and pioneer, Alpha and Omega, who has gone before that we might follow.

In this respect, we are like the children of Israel, bound for the Promised Land that only God can give, but not quite there yet. It is too easy for us to look backward and for our journey to become an aimless wandering in the wilderness. The resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, aims us toward the future beyond imagination that Christ has prepared for those who love Him. It also reminds us that the message we share with the world is this Gospel — Jesus Christ crucified for our sins, dead and buried to end death's reign, and risen to bestow upon us and all believers eternal life.

- How does this hymn ground us in this Easter faith and direct us toward our own Easter hope?
- It is too easy for us to be content with a spiritual victory alone. God has given us much more — the hope for a resurrection of the body/flesh and the full renewal of our lost lives. To the world this may seem like a fairy-tale hope. Think of Thomas and his doubts in John 20:24–29. Is this hope real? Why can we trust Jesus? What is our resurrection hope?

In Closing

Easter joy is inexpressible but not unsingable, and the richest imagery of the poet helps us sing our hope before the world.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 483.

Prayer

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter)

Sermon Text and Titles for May

May 4th,	***"Why Does Jesus Ask Questions?"***	**John 21:5, 15-17**
Acts 9:1-22 Psalm 30 Revelation 5:1-7, 8-14 St. John 21:1-19	With High Delight Let us Unite LSB 483	
May 11th	***"I Told You!!!"***	St. John 10:25
Acts 20:17-35 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 St. John 10:22-30	The Kin of Love My Shepherd is LSB 709	
May 18th	***"I Still Have Many Things to Say."***	St. John 16:12
Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:12-22 St. John 16:12-22	At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing LSB 633	
May 25th*	***"Do You Love Jesus?***	St. John 16:33
Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27 St. John 16:23-33	Dear Christians, one and all Rejoice LSB 556	
May 29th	***"Why Celebrate Our Lord's Ascension?"***	Acts 1:1-11
Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1:15-23 St. Luke 24:44-53	See, The Lord Ascends in Triumph LSB494	

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